

5511

Sponsor(s): Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Zarelli, Haugen, Benton, Strannigan, Rasmussen, Hochstatter, Schow and Goings

Brief Title: Modifying provisions relating to retention of reports of child abuse or neglect.

SB 5511 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Provides that, to protect the privacy in reporting and the maintenance of reports of nonaccidental injury, neglect, death, sexual abuse, and cruelty to children by their parents, and to safeguard against arbitrary, malicious, or erroneous information or actions, the department shall only maintain files of reports if child abuse or neglect has been found by clear and convincing evidence.

Requires the department to notify any person in writing if his or her name is maintained in any filing system related to allegations of child abuse or neglect and the person's right to appeal the inclusion of his or her name in any such system.

Provides that, in determining the character, suitability, and competence of an agency and other persons associated with an agency directly responsible for the care and treatment of children, the department shall make a determination based solely on the information available under chapter 43.43 RCW.